

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8349

INFO ALL CSCE CAPITALS 191

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLO SACLANT NORFOLK VA

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCLANT

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5938

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM

SUBJECT: CSCE: CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

REF: STATE 81134 (APRIL 20, 1974)

1. SUB-COMMITTEE ON MILITARY SECURITY IS CURRENTLY DISCUSSING SECTION II OF PROVISIONALLY REGISTERED TEXT, WHICH CONCERNS SUCH QUESTIONS AS SELF-RESTRAINT, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLITICAL AND MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY, AND THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING EUROPEAN ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS IN OTHER FORUMS (FOR TEXT, SEE PARA 20 REFTEL). SUB-COMMITTEE IS HOLDING INFORMAL SESSIONS IN EFFORT TO FACILITATE DRAFTING OF AGREED TEXTS ON THESE SUBJECTS.

2. IN DISCUSSION OF INTRODUCTORY SENTENCE OF SECTION II, WE HAVE PRESSED FOR DELETION OF PHRASE "LESSENING MILITARY CONFRONTATION" AND SUB-COMMITTEE SEEMS HEADED TOWARDS AGREE-
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MENT ON SUBSTITUTE PHRASE, ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY NORWEGIANS,

WHICH WILL MAKE INNOCUOUS REFERENCE TO "LESSENING TENSIONS AND PROMOTING DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT." OUR ALLIES HAVE BEEN HELPFUL AND FLEXIBLE ON THIS ISSUE AND HAVE SIMILARLY AGREED TO GO ALONG WITH OUR PREFERENCE FOR THE WORDS "TAKE INTO ACCOUNT" INSTEAD OF "PROCEED FROM" AT THE END OF THE INTRODUCTORY SENTENCE. IN CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO RECESS, US REP HAD SUGGESTED SUCH A CHANGE TO SOVIETS AND THEY HAVE NOW PROPOSED AT THE SUB-COMMITTEE THAT THIS SENTENCE END AS FOLLOWS: "(NATURE OF COMMITMENT) TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS:". NEUTRALS, PARTICULARLY YUGOSLAVS, ARE CONTINUING TO INSIST ON "PROCEED FROM THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS" BUT THE INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING REACHED BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE BEFORE THE RECESS TO DROP THE FINAL PHRASE "WHICH THEY DEEM OF VITAL INTEREST" HAS NOT BEEN QUESTIONED.

3. IN MAKING THEIR PROPOSAL, SOVIETS INDICATED ORALLY THAT THEY COULD ACCEPT THE WORD "WILL" IN EXPRESSING THE NATURE OF THE COMMITMENT SO THAT THE PHRASE WOULD READ "WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS." AT CAUCUS OUR ALLIES HAVE ALSO INDICATED THEY COULD ACCEPT "WILL" AND THEY HAVE PRESSED FOR US VIEWS SO THAT PROGRESS CAN BE MADE IN DRAFTING. WE HAVE RESERVED OUR POSITION AND REQUEST DEPT'S INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS POINT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE NOTE THAT IN CONNECTION WITH SOMEWHAT SIMILAR FORMULATION IN SENTENCE 3 OF SECTION II, WE WERE AUTHORIZED BY PARA 21-C-(2) OF REFTTEL TO ACCEPT VERB "SHOULD" IN EXPRESSING THE NATURE OF COMMITMENT. DALE

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